

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 SSO-00

CCO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 H-02 PA-03 PRS-01 USIE-00

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----- 114131

O 031815 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4545

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 0434

NOFORN

E. O. 11652 DGS DECLASSIFY 1/1/83

TAGS: PFOR/ PINS/ ETRN/ EI

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS DURING DAIL RECESS, INCLUDING
ANNOUNCEMENT ON LANDING RIGHTS

REF: DUBLIN 413

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING CURRENT DAIL RECESS, PM COSGRAVE
IS HOPING TO BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE LANDING- RIGHTS AGREEMENT
ON BASIS OF PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN GOI DIPLOMATIC NOTE DATED MARCH
29. IS ALSO CONSIDERING ANNOUNCEMENT OF SERIOUS SCANDALS
INVOLVING PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. DAIL MET ONE DAY MARCH 28 TO ELECT VICE CHAIRMAN
AND CONDUCT PRESSING BUSINESS, THEN RECESSED TILL MAY 2.
NEW RECESS CAUGHT MOST OBSERVERS BY SURPRISE AND
DREW CRITICISM FROM SOME REPORTERS, WHO SUGGESTED THAT
DEPUTIES OUGHT TO BE WORKING HARDER. SO FAR, PRESS HAS
NOT FOUND ANY PERSUASIVE REASONS FOR COSGRAVE'S DECISION.

2. SOURCE CLOSE TO NEW GOVT, HOWEVER, TELLS US THAT
COSGRAVE EXPECTS MAKE SOME MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND
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DISCLOSURES IN NEAR FUTURE. SOURCE BELIEVES THAT COSGRAVE'S MAIN REASON FOR DAIL RECESS WAS TO DEPRIVE OPPOSITION OF FORUM WHEN ANNOUNCEMENT MADE. SOME OF INFO IS SENSITIVE. PLEASE HOLD CAREFULLY.

3. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, LANDING RIGHTS AGREEMENT WITH US IS ONE OF EXPECTED ANNOUNCEMENTS, ASSUMING AGREEMENT CAN BE CONCLUDED PROMPTLY ON BASIS OF GOI'S DIPLOMATIC NOTE REPORTED

DUBLIN'S 413. NEW GOVT HOPES TO TAKE LINE THAT ITS PREDECESSOR HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO LET AMERICANS FLY INTO DUBLIN ON THIS BASIS.

4. IN ADDITION, NEW GOVT WILL PROBABLY DISCLOSE SCANDAL INVOLVING SENIOR FIGURES IN PREVIOUS GOVT. THEY HAD FORMED A RING TO BUY BOMBED- OUT PROPERTY IN NI AT LOW PRICES, USING AN AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN AS FRONT FOR PURCHASES. SOURCE DID NOT KNOW WHO AMERICAN WAS OR WHERE HE LIVED. DISCLOSURES WILL INEVITABLY RAISE SUSPICIONS THAT DUBLIN- BASED PROFITEERS WERE IN COLLABORATION WITH IRA BOMBERS. SOURCE SAYS THAT HE HAS SEEN SOME OF FILES ON CASE AND FOUND THEM " EXTREMELY UNSAVORY." FIRST STEP, WHICH HE SAYS GOI HAS DEFINITELY DECIDED, IS TO BE FIRING OF SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS IN SEVEAL AGENCIES WHO WERE INVOLVED. AS EXAMPLES, SOURCE MENTIONED HEAD OF IRISH TOURIST OFFICE IN DUBLIN AND ITS BRANCH IN NEW YORK. GOVT IS LIKELY TO FOLLOW WITH FULL DISCLOSURE OF SCANDAL, THOUGH SOME IN GOVT BELIEVE THAT NEWS SHOULD BE WITHHELD BECAUSE IT REFLECTS BADLY UPON ENTIRE IRISH NATION.

5. NEW MINISTER FOR JUSTICE HAS ALSO FOUND MUCH EVIDENCE, HITHERTO UNDISCLOSED, IMPLICATING MEMBERS OF PREVIOUS GOVT IN ARMS- SMUGGLING SCANDAL OF 1970. OUTGOING GOVT HAD MADE OFF WITH FILES ON THIS AND SIMILAR EMBARRASSING TOPICS, BUT A FEW CAREER MEN KEPT PERSONAL PHOTOCOPIES WHICH HAVE NOW BEEN TURNED OVER TO NEW GOVT. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, JUSTICE MINISTER BELIEVES THAT EVIDENCE IS SUFFICIENTLY INCRIMINATING TO ALLOW NEW ARMS TRIAL, WITH FORMAL CHARGES AGAINST THREE PREVIOUS MINISTERS: HAUGHEY, LENIHAN, AND ONE OTHER WHOM SOURCE DID NOT RECALL. (THIS IS FIRST TIME WE HAVE HEARD THAT LENIHAN MAY HAVE BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED IN ARMS- SMUGGLING EPISODE.) SOURCE BELIEVES CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT NEW INFO ALSO REFLECTS VERY BADLY ON PM LYNCH, AS MACHINATIONS OF HIS MINISTERS WERE SO WIDESPREAD THAT LYNCH WOULD HAVE HAD TO BE AWARE OF THEM IF HE WANTED TO BE. (THIS MAY BE A MATTER OF OPINION). SOURCE ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT NEW GOVT HAS NOT MADE FINAL DECISION TO REOPEN ARMS- SMUGGLING SCANDAL, AS COSGRVE FEELS THAT NEW DISCLOSURES MIGHT NOT ACCOMPLISH MUCH. INSTEAD OF MAKING INFO PUBLIC, HE MAY WITHHOLD IT-- SO LONG AS FIANNA FAIL BEHAVES AS RESPONSIBLE OPPOSITION . INFO MIGHT THUS BE USED TO KEEP FIANNA FAIL IN LINE.

6. COMMENT: SOURCE IS RELIABLE, AND WE BELIEVE THAT MOST OF ABOVE IS ACCURATE AS FAR AS IT GOES. COSGRAVE MAY, HOWEVER, HAVE ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS OF WHICH SOURCE IS NOT AWARE.

7. THIS INFO SHEDS INTERESTING LIGHT ON COSGRAVE'S THOUGHT PROCESSES. HE WAS ALREADY KNOWN TO BE HIGHLY CONCERNED WITH NATIONAL HONOR, RESPONSIBLE GOVT, AND RESPONSIBLE OPPOSITION. WHILE HE LED OPPOSITION, HE OFTEN KEPT NATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND RATHER THAN EXPLOITING ISSUES FOR NARROW POLITICAL GAIN. WE CAN BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT HE IS CAPABLE OF WITHHOLDING DIRTY INFO ON PREVIOUS GOVT IF HE THINKS DISCLOSURES WOULD SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE.
MOORE

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